

March 1999

Proposals Sought For Ecosystem Restoration Projects

The CALFED Program is soliciting proposals for ecosystem restoration programs and projects. Up to \$18.7 million will be awarded to projects that fall within seven topic areas targeted by CALFED.

The deadline for submittals is 3 p.m., April 16, 1999. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend a pre-submittal workshop on March 16, 1999, from 1-3 p.m. in the Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento.

Any private or public party with an interest in ecosystem restoration may apply. This includes state and federal agencies, special districts, local government entities, universities, resource conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, individuals, public-private joint ventures, and other organizations with an interest in ecosystem restoration. (Cont. back page)

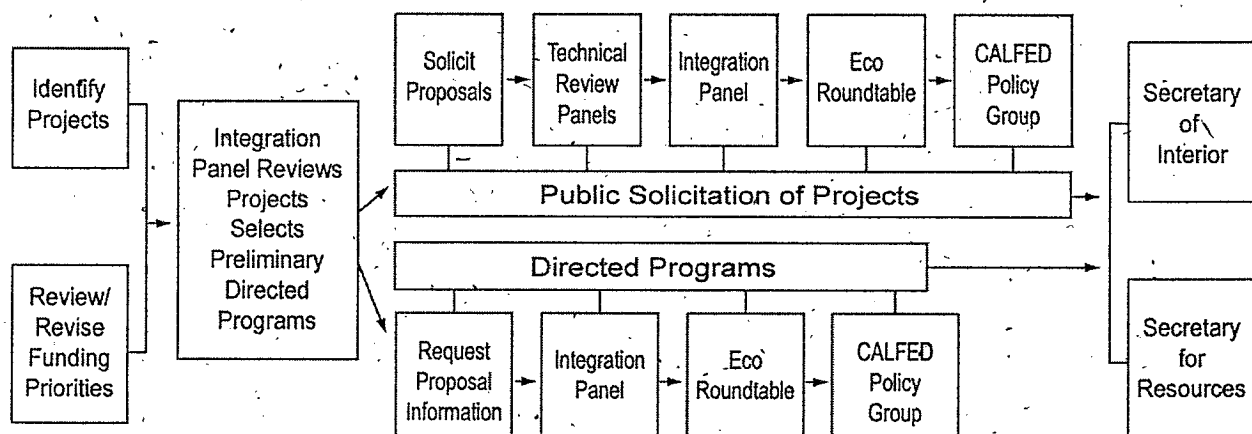
CALFED Announces Directed Programs

The CALFED Program has allocated approximately \$52 million to 13 "directed programs." These projects will help CALFED achieve its long-term ecosystem restoration goals.

To be selected as a directed program, potential projects had to meet three criteria:

1. The project is considered to be a very high priority with substantial investment already made.
2. Additional funding in the current fiscal year would result in substantial progress towards ecosystem restoration goals.
3. The project is ready to go and the implementing entity has been identified.

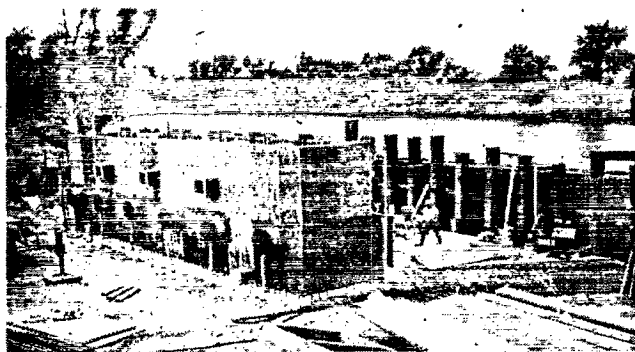
Ecosystem Restoration Project Selection Process



For more information ■ (916) 657-2666 ■ (916) 654-9780 Fax ■ 1-800-700-5752 Information Line ■ <http://calfed.ca.gov>

The 1999 directed programs are:

- Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, \$28,000,000
- Lower Butte Creek Project, Phase II, \$775,000
- ACID Fish Passage Improvement Project, Phase III, \$10,200,000
- Prospect Island Monitoring Project, \$915,000
- Lower Western Stone Project, \$130,000
- Robinson/Gallo Project - Ratzlaff Reach Site, Phase I, \$1,633,000
- Special Run Pool 10 Restoration, \$165,000
- Mining Reach Restoration Project No. 2 - MJ Ruddy Segment, \$3,332,000
- Cost Share with NRCS Easements on the Tuolumne & San Joaquin, \$1,545,000
- East Delta Corridor Habitat Study and Cosumnes River Feasibility Study, \$400,000
- East Delta Corridor Habitat Study and Mokelumne River Feasibility Study, \$400,000
- McCormack-Williamson Tract's Start-up Stewardship & Wildlife-Friendly Levee Management Program, \$860,000
- Assessment of Ecological & Human Health Impacts of Mercury in the Bay-Delta Watershed, \$3,800,000



Project Profiles

Since 1996, the CALFED Program has funded 171 projects and programs of many types. Here are brief descriptions of some representative projects that are underway.

Wilkins Slough Fish Screen Project

Total cost: \$10,837,160

CALFED funding: \$2,500,000

The Wilkins Slough Pumping Plant Fish Screen Facility is a state-of-the-art positive barrier fish screen located on the Sacramento River about 45 miles northwest of Sacramento.

Department of Fish and Game (DFG), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have identified Wilkins Slough as a high priority facility for fish protection. NMFS has designated this area of the Sacramento River as critical habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon.

The project proponent, Reclamation District 108, provides a water supply for approximately 48,000 acres of irrigated agricultural land. Water diversions are also made during the fall to flood rice fields to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl.

The new fish screen facility will prevent entrainment of several listed and at-risk species, including winter-run, spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, and a variety of other resident and anadromous fish. It is one of the largest fish screen facilities on the Sacramento River, with a capacity of 700 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, DFG Proposition 204 funds and RD 108. Technical staffs of the resource agencies (NMFS, DFG, FWS, and USBR) will continue to be involved in the project.

Construction is 95 percent complete, and the fish screen is fully operational. Facility start-up testing is scheduled for March or April 1999, depending on the weather.

Ecosystem Restoration on the Sacramento River

Total cost: \$9,879,800

CALFED funding: \$9,879,800

The loss and degradation of aquatic and riparian habitat on the Sacramento River is at critical levels. Shaded riverine aquatic, floodplain, and riparian woodland habitats have declined as human demands on the river have intensified, with associated declines in aquatic and terrestrial species. Listed and at-risk anadromous fish, including winter-run, spring-run, fall-run, and late fall-run Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout, depend on the river as a migration corridor. Sacramento splittail (a resident fish) have also suffered declines, as well as migratory birds, such as the western yellow-billed cuckoo (a state listed endangered species) and numerous terrestrial species.

The project was proposed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). These organizations have worked together to acquire lands for conservation in the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, acquire conservation easements, implement large-scale riparian forest restoration, and work with the local community on a wildlife-compatible agriculture program. This project builds on these acquisition and restoration successes. Based on criteria and guidelines set forth for refuge land acquisitions, existing management plans, and regional initiatives focused within the conservation area of the Sacramento River, lands will be acquired to ensure the integrity of a large portion of the Sacramento River's stream meander corridor. Lands acquired will come into conservation ownership and be managed in a manner consistent with the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge or state reserve system.



These land acquisitions will facilitate the recovery of natural processes within the floodplain, including the regeneration and restoration of native riparian habitat. Some restoration and ongoing management also are planned, including some riparian restoration, project monitoring and evaluation to monitor the recovery of the meander zone and the establishment of riparian vegetation.

The first property for this project was purchased in February 1999. The property is approximately 666 acres of combined riparian and agricultural land that will become part of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge.

Ag Conferences & Field Tours

Total cost: \$28,000

CALFED funding: \$28,000

Improving farming practices to be more compatible with fish and wildlife is an important part of the CALFED Program. The Committee for Sustainable Agriculture has designed agricultural conferences and field tours to address conservation needs in the San Joaquin Basin.

Leading experts in the fields of agronomy, soil science, water resources management, integrated pest management, and habitat preservation will

present information about environmentally sound agriculture to local growers, ranchers, agricultural advisors and industry-related business representatives presented in two, two-day-long conferences.

The first conference, in February, focussed on orchard and row crop farming practices. The second, in May, will focus on livestock and dairy management. Presentations by various agricultural specialists cover "best" land-use practices such as, waste discharge management, water management, tillage practices, cover crop use, integrated pest management, erosion control, groundwater and surface water quality protection, buffers and easements.

The Committee for Sustainable Agriculture is presenting these conferences in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Forest Service.

Proposals Sought (Cont. from page 1)

Funding will be directed toward programs and projects that reduce conflicts in the Bay-Delta ecosystem, focus on high-risk species and habitats, and provide broad ecosystem benefits.

Proposals for the 1999 funding cycle must address one of the following topics:

- Fish passage/Fish screens
- Habitat Restoration: Channels, Floodplains and Tidal Marshes
- Local Watershed Stewardship
- Water Quality
- Introduced Species
- Improved Fish Management and Hatchery Operations
- Environmental Education

For a copy of the Proposal Solicitation Package, call CALFED at (916)657-2666 or (800)700-5752, or visit the CALFED web site at <http://calfed.ca.gov>.



CALFED
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1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay Delta-system.



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